

REMARKS:

The rejection of claims 1-7 based on 35 USC 112 is respectfully traversed.

The allowability of claims 1-7 after correction is gratefully acknowledged.

The references noted were not specifically applied in the rejection of the claims, and accordingly it is believed that it is not necessary for Applicant to deal with them individually.

All the references are believed to be distinguishable on the grounds set out in para 10 of the Office Action, namely that the references do not disclose a protector having a web and two angled side strips.

10 Also on the further grounds that the references do not disclose a protector having side walls with ribs such that the walls are out of contact with the sides on the lower piece of lumber.

Claim 1 is amended to deal with the 35 USC 110 informalities as noted in para 7, and also to deal with other minor informalities.

Claims 2 -7 are amended to read on to Claim1 and also to deal with the para 7 informalities.

New Claim 14 is added which is believed to be distinguishable over the references on the basis of the reasoning set out in Para 10 of the Office Action.

20 Claim 14 is limited to a web having a median which contacts the underside of the upper piece of lumber, and two side strips which are angled to define wedge shaped spaces for air flow.

The specification is corrected as required.

Formal drawings will be filed upon allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance is earnestly solicited in view of the foregoing. In the event that the Examiner feels that a discussion of the case would be helpful it is respectfully requested that she call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN G SHAW

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